

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. **(Canceled)** A hose for transporting a fluid and which exhibits antimicrobial properties, said hose comprising an inner tube made from a thermoplastic polymer composition;

wherein said composition comprises polyvinyl chloride and an antimicrobial agent.

2. **(Canceled)** A hose according to claim 1 wherein the antimicrobial agent is selected from the group consisting of organic antimicrobial agents and metallic antimicrobial agents.

3. **(Canceled)** A hose according to claim 2 wherein the antimicrobial agent is metallic and comprises silver.

4. **(Canceled)** A hose according to claim 1 wherein the antimicrobial agent is organic and is selected from the group consisting of chlorinated phenols.

5. **(Canceled)** A hose according to claim 4 wherein the chlorinated phenol is selected from the group consisting of 2,4,4'- trichloro-2'hydroxy diphenol ether or 5-chloro-2 phenol (2,4-dichlorophenoxy) and mixtures thereof.

6. **(Canceled)** A hose according to claim 1 further comprising a covering surrounding said first tube.

7. **(Canceled)** A hose according to claim 1 wherein said chlorinated phenol is present between about 200 ppm and about 10,000 ppm based upon the weight of the thermoplastic polymer composition.

8. **(Canceled)** A hose according to claim 7 wherein said chlorinated phenol is present between about 500 ppm and about 5,000 ppm based upon the weight of the thermoplastic polymer composition.

9. **(Canceled)** A hose according to claim 1 wherein the hose is a garden hose.

10. **(Currently Amended)** A garden hose comprising:
an inner tube made from a thermoplastic polymer composition including polyvinyl chloride and sized for fluid carriage in a garden use; and
one antimicrobial agent disposed in said polymer composition ~~comprising~~
~~polyvinyl chloride and an~~
wherein said one antimicrobial agent is selected from the group consisting of 2,4,4'- trichloro-2'-hydroxy diphenol ether ~~or~~ and 5-chloro-2 phenol (2,4-dichlorophenoxy).

11. **(Currently Amended)** A garden hose according to claim 10 wherein a concentration of said antimicrobial agent in said polymer composition is ~~present~~
~~between~~ from about 200 ppm ~~and~~ to about 10,000 ppm based upon the weight of the thermoplastic polymer composition.

12. **(Currently Amended)** A garden hose according to claim 10 wherein said antimicrobial agent is present in said polymer composition from ~~between~~ about 500 ppm ~~and~~ to about 5,000 ppm based upon the weight of the thermoplastic polymer composition.

13. **(Canceled)** A method of making a hose for conveying fluids and which exhibits antimicrobial properties, said method comprising the steps of:
obtaining a thermoplastic polymer wherein said polymer comprises polyvinyl chloride;

combining said thermoplastic polymer with a quantity of an antimicrobial agent selected from the group consisting of organic and inorganic antimicrobial agents to create an antimicrobial thermoplastic polymer composition;
forming an inner tube from said thermoplastic polymer composition; and
providing an outer covering which surrounds said inner tube.

14. **(Canceled)** A method according to claim 13 wherein said antimicrobial agent is organic and is selected from the group consisting of chlorinated phenols.

15. **(Canceled)** A method according to claim 14 wherein the antimicrobial agent is selected from the group consisting of 2,4,4'-trichloro-2'-hydroxy diphenol ether or 5-chloro-2 phenol (2,4-dichlorophenoxy) and mixtures thereof.

16. **(Canceled)** A method according to claim 13 wherein the antimicrobial agent is metallic and comprises silver.

17. **(Canceled)**. A method according to claim 15 wherein the concentration of the antimicrobial agent is between about 200 ppm and 10,000 ppm based upon the weight of the polymer composition.

18. **(Canceled)** A method according to claim 17 wherein concentration of the antimicrobial agent is between about 500 ppm and about 5000 ppm based upon the weight of the polymer composition.

19. **(Canceled)** A method according to claim 13 further comprising the step of adding connectors to the hose to form a garden hose.

20. **(New)** A garden hose, comprising:
a tube constructed of a thermoplastic polymer composition including polyvinyl chloride, said first tube sized for fluid carriage in a garden use; and

one organic antimicrobial agent disposed in said thermoplastic polymer composition.

21. **(New)** The garden hose of claim 20 wherein the antimicrobial agent is 2,4,4'- trichloro-2'-hydroxydiphenol ether.

22. **(New)** The antimicrobial hose of claim 20 wherein said antimicrobial agent is from about 200 ppm to about 10,000 ppm based upon the weight of the thermoplastic polymer composition.

23. **(New)** The antimicrobial hose of claim 22 wherein said antimicrobial agent is from about 500 ppm to about 5,000 ppm based upon the weight of the thermoplastic polymer composition.

24. **(New)** The antimicrobial hose of claim 20 wherein the garden hose has an outer diameter of at least about 0.5 inch.

25. **(New)** A garden hose, comprising:
a first tube of a thermoplastic polymer composition including polyvinyl chloride, said first tube sized for fluid carriage in a garden use;
a first antimicrobial agent disposed in said thermoplastic polymer composition, the first antimicrobial agent being an inorganic antimicrobial agent.

26. **(New)** The garden hose of claim 25 wherein the first antimicrobial agent is selected from the group consisting of a titanium compound; a barium compound; a zinc compound; a silver compound; and a copper compound.

27. **(New)** The garden hose of claim 26 wherein the first antimicrobial agent is a silver compound.

28. **(New)** The garden hose of claim 25 wherein the first antimicrobial agent is selected from the group consisting of titanium dioxide; barium monohydrate; zinc pyrithione derivatives; elemental silver; silver zeolite; silver in amorphous glass; silver in a sol-gel formulation; elemental copper; copper zeolite; copper in amorphous glass; copper in a sol-gel formulation; elemental zinc; zinc in zeolite; zinc in amorphous glass; and zinc in a sol-gel formulation.

29. **(New)** The garden hose of claim 25 wherein a concentration of the first antimicrobial agent is from about 200 ppm to about 10,000 ppm based upon the weight of the thermoplastic polymer composition.

30. **(New)** The garden hose of claim 25 wherein a concentration of first antimicrobial agent is from about 200 ppm to about 5,000 ppm based upon the weight of the thermoplastic polymer composition.

31. **(New)** The garden hose of claim 25, further comprising:
a second tube disposed substantially concentrically on an outer aspect of and surrounding the first tube.

32. **(New)** The garden hose of claim 31 wherein the second tube is substantially free of antimicrobial agents.

33. **(New)** The garden hose of claim 25, further comprising:
a second antimicrobial agent incorporated in the thermoplastic polymer composition of the first tube.

34. **(New)** The garden hose of claim 25 wherein the second antimicrobial agent is:

(a) an inorganic compound selected from the group consisting of titanium dioxide; barium monohydrate; zinc pyrithione derivatives; elemental silver; silver zeolite;

silver in amorphous glass; silver in a sol-gel formulation; elemental copper; copper zeolite; copper in amorphous glass; copper in a sol-gel formulation; elemental zinc; zinc in zeolite; zinc in amorphous glass; and zinc in a sol-gel formulation; or

(b) an organic compound selected from the group consisting of chlorinated phenols, and mixtures of chlorinated phenols.